



Duval County Public Schools

March 30, 2010, Joint DCSB - City Council Meeting

Ms. Brenda Priestly Jackson, Chairman
Ms. Nancy Broner, Vice-Chairman
Ms. Martha Barrett
Ms. Betty Burney
Ms. Vicki Drake
Mr. W. C. Gentry
Mr. Tommy Hazouri
Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent

ATTENDANCE AT THIS SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD - CITY COUNCIL: All Board Members were present, with the exception of Mr. W. C. Gentry, who was out of town. Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent, and Ms. Karen Chastain, Assistant General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, were also present.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman called the Special Duval County School Board - City Council Joint Meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., and welcomed all who were in attendance and explained the format of the evening.

Council President Richard Clark also extended greetings to those present.

Everyone present introduced themselves. In attendance were:

Duval County School Board:

Ms. Brenda Priestly Jackson, Chairman
Ms. Martha Barret, Member
Ms. Nancy Broner, Vice-Chairman
Ms. Betty Burney, Member

Ms. Vicki Drake, Member
Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Member
Mr. Richard Clark, President, City Council

City Council:

Mr. Richard Clark, President
Mr. John Crescimbeni, Member
Mr. William Bishop, Member
Mr. Art Graham, Member
Mr. Ray Holt, Member
Ms. Glorious Johnson, Member
Mr. Don Redmon, Member
Mr. Art Shad, Member
Mr. Jack Webb, Member
Mr. Clay Yarborough, Member

Topics To Be Discussed

[1. PRESENTATION BY DON MCADAMS ON SCHOOL REFORM & SCHOOL BOARD & DISTRICT EFFECTIVENESS](#)

Minutes:

Board Vice-Chairman Nancy Broner introduced Mr. Don McAdams, Director of the Center for Reform of School Systems.

Mr. McAdams addressed the group on governance and the pros and cons of a mayoral controlled school Board. Some of the points he made were:

- As a rule, mayoral control is only a temporary action and even then only when a district is in crises.
- Mayoral appointed Boards tend to make citizens feel shut off and they do not know who their Board Members are and how to reach them with concerns.
- Districts with appointed Boards were discussed.
- The least desirable scenario is half appointed and half elected.
- Democracy is the citizens having the right to elect their representatives and having control of their public schools.
- It is essential that the public feels they own the public schools.
- You have more transparency with an elected Board.

During a question and answer session, the following points were discussed:

- When asked how he viewed Duval, Mr. McAdams responded that Duval has a very good reputation around the country.
- Board Member Burney pointed out that our District has a grade of B from the

State and that is above average.

- When asked about selecting Board Members from a single district or at-large, Mr. McAdams responded that at-large were preferable, whether appointed or elected.
- Mayor's have the same pressures as an elected Board.
- Correlation of funding vs. student achievement - depends on how you use the dollars.
- Pitfalls to be careful of when implementing programs: what is taught; how well it is taught; how long it is taught; changing strategies and not staying with a program long enough for it to show results.
- Avoid fad programs - i.e., smaller classes; across the board pay for all employees; small schools.

Chairman Priestly Jackson thanked everyone for attending and participating in the discussion.

Adjournment

[ADJOURNMENT](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman adjourned the Special Duval County School Board - City Council Joint Meeting at 5:20 p.m.

BSC

Superintendent

Chairman